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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03150 021618Z

64
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 DRC-01 RSC-01

/030 W
---------- 009023
R 021522Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6295
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3150

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP, AR
SUBJECT: STAFFDEL PLANK

REF SANTIAGO 2259 AND 2278

1. JOHN PLANK, CONSULTANT TO SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, ARRIVED IN BUENOS AIRES FROM SANTIAGO DE CHILE EVENING OF APRIL 27. PLANK HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAY HERE THROUGH ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO AND WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF GOA AS WELL AS EMBOFF. MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SCHEDULED FOR THAT EVENING FELL THROUGH, BUT PLANK WAS RECEIVED BY DIRECTOR AND STAFF MEMBERS OF OFFICE OF ARGENTINE IMMIGRATION AFFAIRS.

2. HE LUNCHED WITH DIRECTOR OF ARGENTINE IMMIGRATION AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES IN LATIN AMERICA ON APRIL 28. SAME DAY HE ALSO MET WITH AMBASSADOR HILL IN RESIDENCE TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING IN RESIDENCE WAS MOST CORDIAL. PLANK FREELY DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR HIS CONCLUSION RE CHILE. HE FELT THEREDOUBTLESS HAD BEEN MANY CASES OF TORTURE, ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND OTHER ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT THAT SITUATION DID SEEM TO BE IMPROVING. MILITARY AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING PINOCHET, STRUCK HIM AS EXTREMELY UNSOPHISTICATED POLITICALLY AND FANATICALLY CONVINCED OF CORRECTNESS THEIR POSITION, BUT NONETHELESS OPEN
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TO MODERATING INFLUENCE. HE THEREFORE FAVORED A REPORT

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WHICH WOULD NOT CONDEMN GOC, THEREBY PROBABLY CLOSING DOORS
TO PERSUASION.

3. PLANK DEPARTED NIGHT OF APRIL 28.

4. COMMENT. GOA ACCORDED PLANK EXCELLENT RECEPTION,
GIVEN SHORT PRIOR NOTICE AND BREVITY OF HIS VISIT.
HILL

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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